

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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P 140744Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3343

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO ENDS HUNGER STRIKE

REF: MANILA 6412

1. AS ANTICIPATED PARA 2 REFTEL, SEN. AQUINO HAS ENDED HIS HUNGER STRIKE. ACCORDING TO AP MRS. AQUINO ANNOUNCED THIS DECISION AT SPECIAL MASS TUESDAY (MAY 13) EVENING. REFERRING TO SEC. TATAD'S STATEMENT THAT GOP WOULD NOT LET HER HUSBAND DIE, MRS. AQUINO SAID "REGIME WHICH DENIED HIM BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO LIVE IN DIGNITY HAS DECIDED ALSO DENY HIM THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE TO DIE FOR HIS CONVICTIONS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS POINTLESS FOR HIM TO LOSE WHATEVER LITTLE STRENGTH IS LEFT IN HIM. HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS BELIEVE HE CAN BEST SERVE HIS COUNTRY AND THE CAUSE HE IS FIGHTING FOR IF HE NOW TAKES STEPS TO REGAIN HIS STRENGTH TO CONTINUE HIS STRUGGLE. WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PREVAILING ON MY HUSBAND TO END HIS FAST." MRS. AQUINO SAID TO ALLOW HER HUSBAND "TO DETERIORATE IRREVERSIBLY WOULD NOT ONLY SERVE THE VERY INJUSTICES HE IS FIGHTING AGAINST IT WOULD ALSO BE INHUMAN." SHE STATED HE HAS ASKED NO CONCESSIONS FOR HIMSELF. HIS ONLY DEMAND IS FOR "JUSTICE AND FREEDOM". MRS. AQUINO SAID THE SENATOR WOULD SIP CHICKEN BROTH WED. (MAY 14) TO END THE HUNGER STRIKE HE BEGAN APRIL 5.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AQUINO'S DECISION CAME 10 HOURS AFTER FLURRY OF ACTIVITY ABOUT HIS CONDITION. HE HAD REPORTEDLY FELT FAINT AND HIS PULSE RATE HAD DROPPED TO AN "ALARMING RATE".

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS VISITING REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM BUTLER WAS AT MASS AT WHICH ANNOUNCEMENT OF AQUINO'S DECISION TO END FAST WAS MADE. BUTLER HAS ASKED GOP FOR PERMISSION TO SEE SENATOR AND WANTS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM INVITATION TO BECOME FELLOW AT HARVARD IN 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR.

4. COMMENT: AQUINO'S DECISION TO END HIS FAST IS CLEARCUT VICTORY FOR MARCOS BUT RESOLUTION OF AQUINO'S CASE STILL REMAINS VEXING PROBLEM FOR PRESIDENT.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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